

# Day 8: Text Analysis

ME414: Introduction to Data Science and Big Data Analytics

LSE Methods Summer Programme

23 August 2017

# Day 8 Outline

## Key features of QTA

- Quantitative text analysis workflow

- Key basic concepts

## Documents and features

- Strategies for selecting documents

- Defining features

- Parts of speech

- Filtering features

- “stopwords”

## Descriptive text analysis

- Key words in context

- Descriptive text statistics

- Lexical diversity

## Content analysis

## Dictionary analysis

## **Key features of Quantitative Text Analysis**

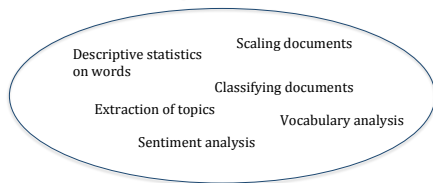
# Basic QTA Process: Texts → Feature matrix → Analysis

When I presented the supplementary budget to this House last April, I said we could work our way through this period of severe economic distress. Today, I can report that notwithstanding the difficulties of the past eight months, we are now on the road to economic recovery.

In this next phase of the Government's plan we must stabilise the deficit in a fair way, safeguard those worst hit by the recession, and stimulate crucial sectors of our economy to sustain and create jobs. The worst is over.

This Government has the moral authority and the well-grounded optimism rather than the cynicism of the Opposition. It has the imagination to create the new jobs in energy, agriculture, transport and construction that this green budget will

docs	words											
	made	because	had	into	get	some	through	next	where	many	irish	
t06_kenny_fg	12	11	5	4	8	4	3	4	5	7	10	
t05_cowen_ff	9	4	8	5	5	5	14	13	4	9	8	
t14_ocaoilain_sf	3	3	3	4	7	3	7	2	3	5	6	
t01_lenihan_ff	12	1	5	4	2	11	9	16	14	6	9	
t11_gormley_green	0	0	0	3	0	2	0	3	1	1	2	
t04_morgan_sf	11	8	7	15	8	19	6	5	3	6	6	
t12_ryan_green	2	2	3	7	0	3	0	1	6	0	0	
t10_quinn_lab	1	4	4	2	8	4	1	0	1	2	0	
t07_odonnell_fg	5	4	2	1	5	0	1	1	0	3	0	
t09_higgins_lab	2	2	5	4	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	
t03_burton_lab	4	8	12	10	5	5	4	5	8	15	8	
t13_cuffe_green	1	2	0	0	11	0	16	3	0	3	1	
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t02_bruton_fg	1	10	6	4	4	3	0	6	16	5	3	



# What role for “qualitative” analysis in QTA?

- ▶ Ultimately all reading of texts is qualitative, even when we count elements of the text or convert them into numbers
- ▶ QTA may involve human judgment in the **construction** of the feature-document matrix
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- ▶ QTA may involve human judgment in the **interpretation** of the output of statistical models
- ▶ But quantitative text analysis differs from more qualitative approaches in that it:
  - ▶ Involves large-scale analysis of many texts, rather than close readings of few texts
  - ▶ Requires no *interpretation* of texts
- ▶ Uses a variety of statistical techniques to extract information from the document-feature matrix

# Key feature of quantitative text analysis

- ▶ **Conversion** of textual features into a quantitative matrix.
- ▶ A **quantitative or statistical procedure** to extract information from the quantitative matrix
- ▶ **Summary** and interpretation of the quantitative results

### 3 guiding principles for QTA

- ▶ All quantitative models for text are wrong, but some are useful
- ▶ Quantitative models for text augment, but do not replace, humans
- ▶ Validation is key
  - ▶ On which note...<https://jblumenau.shinyapps.io/topicapp/>



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Descriptive statistics  
on words

Scaling documents

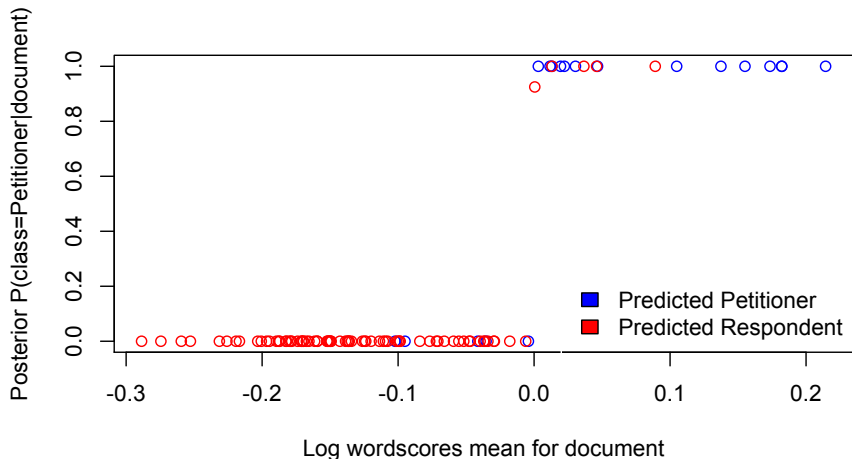
Classifying documents

Extraction of topics

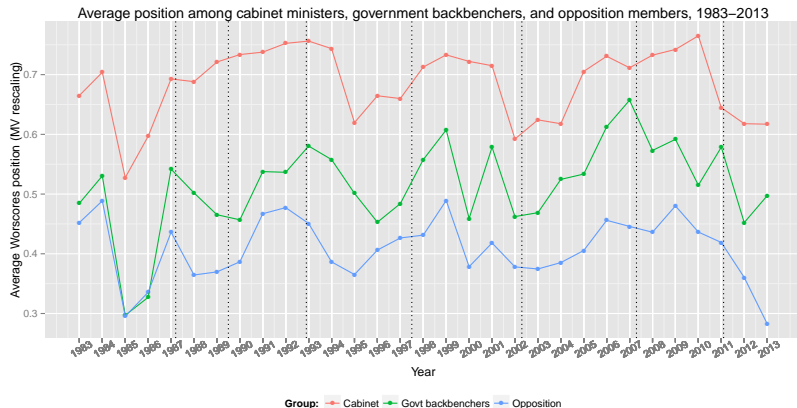
Vocabulary analysis

Sentiment analysis

## Example: Document classification using the “Naive Bayes” classifier

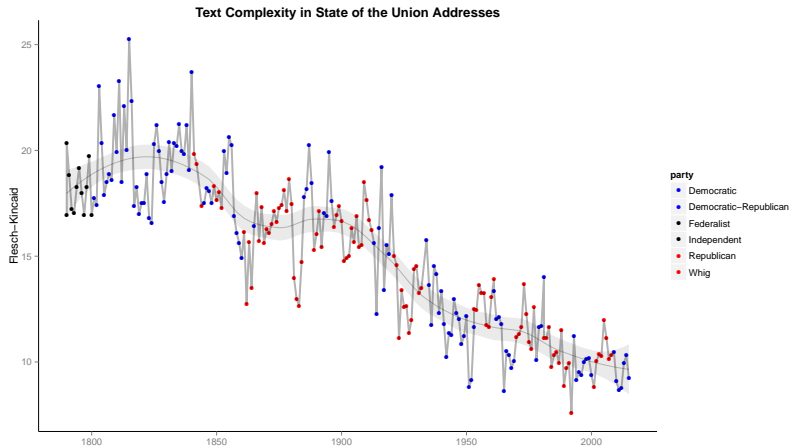


# Government v. Opposition in yearly budget debates



(from Herzog and Benoit EPSA 2013)

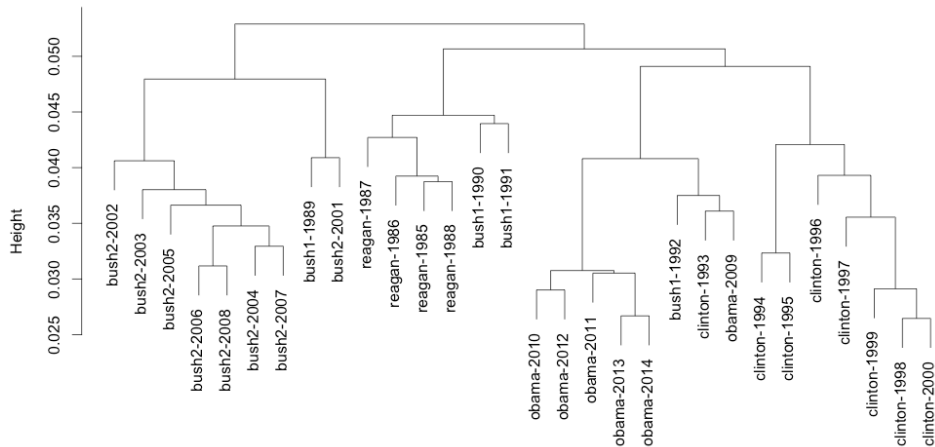
# Reading level of US State-of-the-Union addresses over time



Wordcloud of Tweets from 2014 EP campaign, by list-leading candidate

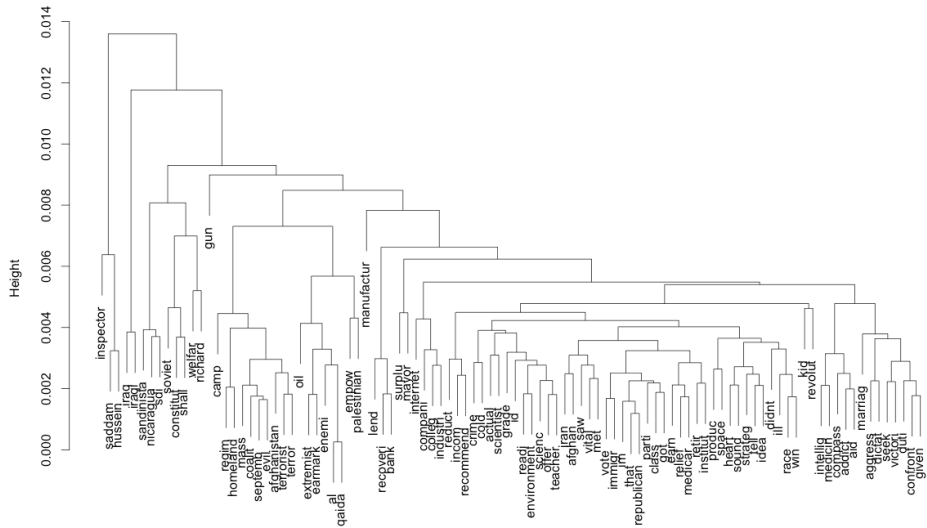


# Hierarchical clustering: Presidential State of the Union addresses

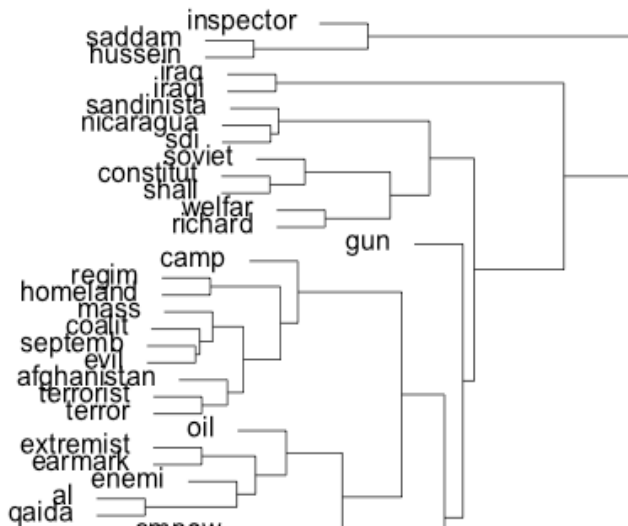


# Dendrogram: Presidential State of the Union addresses

tf-idf Frequency weighting



# Dendrogram: Presidential State of the Union addresses





# This requires assumptions

- ▶ That texts represent an observable implication of some underlying characteristic of interest (usually an attribute of the author)
- ▶ That texts can be represented through extracting their *features*
  - ▶ most common is the **bag of words** assumption
  - ▶ disregard grammar, disregard word order, just pay attention to word frequencies
  - ▶ many other possible definitions of “features”
- ▶ A **document-feature matrix** can be analyzed using quantitative methods to produce meaningful and valid estimates of the underlying characteristic of interest

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- ▶ The dependency structure between words in each sentence is lost
- ▶ The word “flies” has a different meaning in the two sentences (metaphorical versus literal), but both sentences score a 1 here
- ▶ The ‘joke’ is no longer funny

# Key feature of quantitative text analysis

1. **Selecting texts**: Defining the *corpus*
2. **Conversion** of texts into a common electronic format
3. **Defining documents**: deciding what will be the documentary unit of analysis

# Key feature of quantitative text analysis (cont.)

4. **Defining features**. These can take a variety of forms, including tokens, equivalence classes of tokens (dictionaries), selected phrases, human-coded segments (of possibly variable length), linguistic features, and more.
5. **Conversion of textual features into a quantitative matrix**
6. A **quantitative or statistical procedure** to extract information from the quantitative matrix
7. **Summary** and interpretation of the quantitative results

# Extreme forms of QTA

- ▶ Fully automated technique with minimal human intervention or judgment calls – only with regard to reference text selection
- ▶ Methods can “discover” topics with little human supervision
- ▶ Language-blind: can scaling anything that occurs with regular patterns (even without knowing what these mean)





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- (text) **corpus** a large and structured set of texts for analysis
  - types** for our purposes, a unique word
  - tokens** any word – so token count is total words
  - stems** words with suffixes removed
  - lemmas** canonical word form (the base form of a word that has the same meaning even when different suffixes (or prefixes) are attached)
  - keys** such as dictionary entries, where the user defines a set of equivalence classes that group different word types

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- complexity A word is considered “complex” if it contains three syllables or more
- diversity (lexical diversity) A measure of how many types occur per fixed word rate (a normalized vocabulary measure)

## Documents and Features

# Strategies for selecting units of textual analysis

- ▶ Words
- ▶  $n$ -word sequences
- ▶ pages
- ▶ paragraphs
- ▶ Natural units (a speech, a poem, a manifesto)
- ▶ Key: depends on the research design

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*Rindfleischetikettierungsüberwachungsaufgabenübertragungsgesetz*  
(the law concerning the delegation of duties for the supervision of cattle marking and the labelling of beef)

# Defining Features (cont.)

- ▶ “word” sequences, especially when inter-word delimiters (usually white space) are not commonly used, as in Chinese  
    莎拉波娃现在居住在美国东南部的佛罗里达。今年4月9日，莎拉波娃在美国第一大城市纽约度过了18岁生日。生日派对上，莎拉波娃露出了甜美的微笑。
- ▶ n-grams: contiguous sequence of words from document (1-gram, unigram; 2-gram, bigram, etc)
- ▶ (if qualitative coding is used) coded or annotated text segments
- ▶ linguistic features: parts of speech

# Parts of speech

- ▶ the Penn “Treebank” is the standard scheme for tagging POS

Number	Tag	Description
1.	CC	Coordinating conjunction
2.	CD	Cardinal number
3.	DT	Determiner
4.	EX	Existential <i>there</i>
5.	FW	Foreign word
6.	IN	Preposition or subordinating conjunction
7.	JJ	Adjective
8.	JJR	Adjective, comparative
9.	JJS	Adjective, superlative
10.	LS	List item marker
11.	MD	Modal
12.	NN	Noun, singular or mass
13.	NNS	Noun, plural
14.	NNP	Proper noun, singular
15.	NNPS	Proper noun, plural
16.	PDT	Predeterminer
17.	POS	Possessive ending
18.	PRP	Personal pronoun
19.	PRP\$	Possessive pronoun
20.	RB	Adverb

21.	RBR	Adverb, comparative
22.	RBS	Adverb, superlative
23.	RP	Particle
24.	SYM	Symbol
25.	TO	<i>to</i>
26.	UH	Interjection
27.	VB	Verb, base form
28.	VBD	Verb, past tense
29.	VBG	Verb, gerund or present participle
30.	VBN	Verb, past participle
31.	VBP	Verb, non-3rd person singular present
32.	VBZ	Verb, 3rd person singular present
33.	WDT	Wh-determiner
34.	WP	Wh-pronoun
35.	WP\$	Possessive wh-pronoun
36.	WRB	Wh-adverb

# Parts of speech (cont.)

- ▶ several open-source projects make it possible to tag POS in text, namely Apache's OpenNLP (and R package openNLP wrapper)

```
> s
Pierre Vinken, 61 years old, will join the board as a nonexecutive director Nov. 29.
Mr. Vinken is chairman of Elsevier N.V., the Dutch publishing group.
> sprintf("%s/%s", s[a3w], tags)
[1] "Pierre/NNP"      "Vinken/NNP"      ",/,,"           "61/CD"
[5] "years/NNS"       "old/JJ"          ",/,,"           "will/MD"
[9] "join/VB"         "the/DT"          "board/NN"       "as/IN"
[13] "a/DT"           "nonexecutive/JJ" "director/NN"    "Nov./NNP"
[17] "29/CD"          "../."           "Mr./NNP"       "Vinken/NNP"
[21] "is/VBZ"         "chairman/NN"    "of/IN"         "Elsevier/NNP"
[25] "N.V./NNP"       ",/,,"           "the/DT"        "Dutch/JJ"
[29] "publishing/NN"  "group/NN"       "../."
```

# Strategies for feature selection

- ▶ This can lead to a lot of features!
- ▶ An example (small) corpus:
  - ▶ 17,129 speeches made in the final month of 2016 in the House of Commons
  - ▶  $\approx 3$  million total words
  - ▶ 46998 unique words
  - ▶ 468244 unique 1-gram and 2-gram sequences

# Strategies for feature selection

- ▶ **document frequency** How many documents in which a term appears
- ▶ **term frequency** How many times does the term appear in the corpus
- ▶ **deliberate disregard** Use of “stop words”: words excluded because they represent linguistic connectors of no substantive content
- ▶ **purposive selection** Use of a *dictionary* of words or phrases
- ▶ **declared equivalency classes** Non-exclusive synonyms, what I call a *thesaurus* (lots more on these on Day 4)

# Common English stop words

a, able, about, across, after, all, almost, also, am, among, an, and, any, are, as, at, be, because, been, but, by, can, cannot, could, dear, did, do, does, either, else, ever, every, for, from, get, got, had, has, have, he, her, hers, him, his, how, however, I, if, in, into, is, it, its, just, least, let, like, likely, may, me, might, most, must, my, neither, no, nor, not, of, off, often, on, only, or, other, our, own, rather, said, say, says, she, should, since, so, some, than, that, the, their, them, then, there, these, they, this, tis, to, too, twas, us, wants, was, we, were, what, when, where, which, while, who, whom, why, will, with, would, yet, you, your



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- But no list should be considered universal

# A more comprehensive list of stop words

a's, able, about, above, according, accordingly, across, actually, after, afterwards, again, against, ain't, all, allow, allows, almost, alone, along, already, also, although, always, am, among, amongst, an, and, another, any, anybody, anyhow, anyone, anything, anyway, anyways, anywhere, apart, appear, appreciate, appropriate, are, aren't, around, as, aside, ask, asking, associated, at, available, away, awfully, be, became, because, become, becomes, becoming, been, before, beforehand, behind, being, believe, below, beside, besides, best, better, between, beyond, both, brief, but, by, c'mon, c's, came, can, can't, cannot, cant, cause, causes, certain, certainly, changes, clearly, co, com, come, comes, concerning, consequently, consider, considering, contain, containing, contains, corresponding, could, couldn't, course, currently, definitely, described, despite, did, didn't, different, do, does, doesn't, doing, don't, done, down, downwards, during, each, edu, eg, eight, either, else, elsewhere, enough, entirely, especially, et, etc, even, every, everybody, everyone, everything, everywhere, ex, exactly, example, except, far, few, fifth, first, five, followed, following, follows, for, former, formerly, forth, four, from, further, furthermore, get, gets, getting, given, gives, go, goes, going, gone, got, gotten, greetings, had, hadn't, happens, hardly, has, hasn't, have, haven't, having, he, he's, hello, help, hence, her, here, here's, hereafter, hereby, herein, hereupon, hers, herself, hi, him, himself, his, hither, hopefully, how, howbeit, however, i'd, i'll, i'm, i've, ie, if, ignored, immediate, in, inasmuch, inc, indeed, indicate, indicated, indicates, inner, insofar, instead, into, inward, is, isn't, it, it'd, it'll, it's, its, itself, just, keep, keeps, kept, know, knows, known, last, lately, later, latter, latterly, least, less, lest, let, let's, like, liked, likely, little, look, looking, looks, ltd, mainly, many, may, maybe, me, mean, meanwhile, merely, might, more, moreover, most, mostly, much, must, my, myself, name, namely, nd, near, nearly, necessary, need, needs, neither, never, nevertheless, new, next, nine, no, nobody, non, none, noone, nor, normally, not, nothing, novel, now, nowhere, obviously, of, off, often, oh, ok, okay, old, on, once, one, ones, only, onto, or, other, others, otherwise, ought, our, ours, ourselves, out, outside, over, overall, own, particular, particularly, per, perhaps, placed, please, plus, possible, presumably, probably, provides, que, quite, qv, rather, rd, re, really, reasonably, regarding, regardless, regards, relatively, respectively, right, said, same, saw, say, saying, says, second, secondly, see, seeing, seem, seemed, seeming, seems, seen, self, selves, sensible, sent, serious, seriously, seven, several, shall, she, should, shouldn't, since, six, so, some, somebody, somehow, someone, something, sometime, sometimes, somewhat, somewhere, soon, sorry, specified, specify, specifying, still, sub, such, sup, sure, t's, take, taken, tell, tends, th, than, thank, thanks, thanx, that, that's, thats, the, their, theirs, them, themselves, then, thence, there, there's, thereafter, thereby, therefore, therein, theres, thereupon, these, they, they'd, they'll, they're, they've, think, third, this, thorough, thoroughly, those, though, three, through, throughout, thru, thus, to, together, too, took, toward, towards, tried, tries, truly, try, trying, twice, two, un, under, unfortunately, unless, unlikely, until, unto, up, upon, us, use, used, useful, uses, using, usually, value, various, very, via, viz, vs, want, wants, was, wasn't, way, we, we'd, we'll, we're, we've, welcome, well, went, were, weren't, what, what's, whatever, when, whence, whenever, where, where's, whereafter, whereas, whereby, wherein, whereupon, wherever, whether, which, while, whither, who, who's, whoever, whole, whom, whose, why, will, willing, wish,

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**example:** **produc** from  
production, producer, produce, produces,  
produced

# Feature selection in practice

- ▶ 17,129 speeches made in the final month of 2016 in the House of Commons
- ▶ 46,998 unique words
  - ▶ After stopwords: 46,835
  - ▶ ...and stemming: 36,460
  - ▶ ...and removing features that appear fewer than 5 times: 8,823
  - ▶ ...and removing features in fewer than 0.001 documents: 4,068
- ▶ Feature selection matters! See Denny and Spirling, 2017
  - ▶ Just seven (binary) preprocessing decisions leads to a total of  $2^7 = 128$  possible feature matrices
  - ▶ These selection decisions can have substantive implications for the inferences we draw from QTA

## Descriptive text analysis



# Exploring Texts: Key Words in Context

# Exploring Texts: Key Words in Context

**KWIC** *Key words in context* Refers to the most common format for concordance lines. A KWIC index is formed by sorting and aligning the words within an article title to allow each word (except the stop words) in titles to be searchable alphabetically in the index.

## **lime (14)**

79[C.10] 4 /Which was builded of **lime** and sand;/Until they came to  
247A.6 4 /That was well biggit with **lime** and stane.  
303A.1 2 bower./Well built wi **lime** and stane./And Willie came  
247A.9 2 /That was well biggit wi **lime** and stane./Nor has he stoln  
305A.2 1 a castell biggit with **lime** and stane./O gin it stands not  
305A.71 2 is my awin./I biggit it wi **lime** and stane;/The Tinnies and  
79[C.10] 6 /Which was builded with **lime** and stone.  
305A.30 1 a prittie castell of **lime** and stone./O gif it stands not  
108.15 2 /Which was made both of **lime** and stone./Shee tooke him by  
175A.33 2 castle then./Was made of **lime** and stone;/The vttermost  
178[H.2] 2 near by./Well built with **lime** and stone;/There is a lady  
178F.18 2 built with stone and **lime**!/But far mair pittie on Lady  
178G.35 2 was biggit wi stane and **lime**!/But far mair pity o Lady  
2D.16 1 big a cart o stane and **lime**./Gar Robin Redbreast trail it

# Another KWIC Example (Seale et al (2006))

Table 3

Example of Keyword in Context (KWIC) and associated word clusters display

---

*Extracts from Keyword in Context (KWIC) list for the word 'scan'*

An MRI **scan** then indicated it had spread slightly

Fortunately, the MRI **scan** didn't show any involvement of the lymph nodes

3 very worrying weeks later, a bone **scan** also showed up clear.

The bone **scan** is to check whether or not the cancer has spread to the bones.

The bone **scan** is done using a type of X-ray machine.

The results were terrific, CT **scan** and pelvic X-ray looked good

Your next step appears to be to await the result of the **scan** and I wish you well there.

I should go and have an MRI **scan** and a bone **scan**

*Three-word clusters most frequently associated with keyword 'scan'*

<i>N</i>	<i>Cluster</i>	<i>Freq</i>
1	A bone scan	28
2	Bone scan and	25
3	An MRI scan	18
4	My bone scan	15
5	The MRI scan	15
6	The bone scan	14
7	MRI scan and	12
8	And Mri scan	9
9	Scan and MRI	9

---

# Irish Budget Speeches KIWC in quanteda

```
R Console

> data(iebudgets)
> iebudgets2010 <- subset(iebudgets, year==2010)
> kwic(iebudgets2010, "christmas", regex=TRUE)
```

	preword	word	postword
[2010_BUDGET_02_Richard_Bruton_FG.txt, 628]	and to see out this	Christmas	in the hope of something
[2010_BUDGET_03_Joan_Burton_LAB.txt, 371]	to suggest titles for a	Christmas	hit single. Fianna Fáil's hit
[2010_BUDGET_03_Joan_Burton_LAB.txt, 379]	Fianna Fáil's hit single for	Christmas	will be, "I saw NAMA
[2010_BUDGET_03_Joan_Burton_LAB.txt, 922]	women will say goodbye after	Christmas	because they must take the
[2010_BUDGET_03_Joan_Burton_LAB.txt, 1518]	in single golf clubs this	Christmas.	With a possible election next
[2010_BUDGET_03_Joan_Burton_LAB.txt, 1726]	Community faking its message this	Christmas?	Is the Society of St.
[2010_BUDGET_03_Joan_Burton_LAB.txt, 3159]	bags. In previous years at	Christmas	time people were laden down
[2010_BUDGET_04_Arthur_Morgan_SF.txt, 346]	€204 per week or the	Christmas	bonus. Of course, that is
[2010_BUDGET_04_Arthur_Morgan_SF.txt, 3239]	to social welfare payments this	Christmas.	The loss of the Christmas
[2010_BUDGET_04_Arthur_Morgan_SF.txt, 3244]	Christmas. The loss of the	Christmas	bonus, a double payment which
[2010_BUDGET_04_Arthur_Morgan_SF.txt, 3272]	streets on Santa presents and	Christmas	food. The Government's Scrooge measures
[2010_BUDGET_04_Arthur_Morgan_SF.txt, 5899]	their jobs, who face this	Christmas	in debt, in poverty and
[2010_BUDGET_06_Enda_Kenny_FG.txt, 2629]	to implement the reduction before	Christmas.	I do not know whether
[2010_BUDGET_07_Kieran_ODonnell_FG.txt, 1365]	from the change in the	Christmas	period. We suggested that the
[2010_BUDGET_08_Eamon_Gilmore_LAB.txt, 550]	cut of €641, including the	Christmas	payment. A couple on invalidity
[2010_BUDGET_08_Eamon_Gilmore_LAB.txt, 638]	are on social welfare, the	Christmas	payment is gone. Earnest lectures
[2010_BUDGET_08_Eamon_Gilmore_LAB.txt, 998]	of emigration. Once again this	Christmas,	we will witness the scenes
[2010_BUDGET_13_Ciaran_Cuffe_Green.txt, 911]	noted recently that over the	Christmas	recess work will be done
[2010_BUDGET_14_Caoimhghin_O'Caolain_SF.txt, 148]	will all be over by	Christmas.	If it is the last

```
>
```

# Basic descriptive summaries of text

**Readability statistics** Use a combination of syllables and sentence length to indicate “readability” in terms of complexity

**Vocabulary diversity** (At its simplest) involves measuring a *type-to-token ratio* (TTR) where unique words are types and the total words are tokens

**Word (relative) frequency**

**Theme (relative) frequency**

**Length** in characters, words, lines, sentences, paragraphs, pages, sections, chapters, etc.

# Simple descriptive table about texts: Describe your data!

Speaker	Party	Tokens	Types
Brian Cowen	FF	5,842	1,466
Brian Lenihan	FF	7,737	1,644
Ciaran Cuffe	Green	1,141	421
John Gormley (Edited)	Green	919	361
John Gormley (Full)	Green	2,998	868
Eamon Ryan	Green	1,513	481
Richard Bruton	FG	4,043	947
Enda Kenny	FG	3,863	1,055
Kieran O'Donnell	FG	2,054	609
Joan Burton	LAB	5,728	1,471
Eamon Gilmore	LAB	3,780	1,082
Michael Higgins	LAB	1,139	437
Ruairi Quinn	LAB	1,182	413
Arthur Morgan	SF	6,448	1,452
Caoimhghin O'Caolain	SF	3,629	1,035
All Texts		49,019	4,840
<i>Min</i>		919	361
<i>Max</i>		7,737	1,644
<i>Median</i>		3,704	991
<i>Hapaxes with Gormley Edited</i>		67	
<i>Hapaxes with Gormley Full Speech</i>		69	

# Lexical Diversity

- ▶ Basic measure is the **TTR**: Type-to-Token ratio

$$TTR = \frac{NumberofTypes(V)}{NumberofTokens(N)} \quad (1)$$

- ▶ Problem: This is very sensitive to overall document length, as shorter texts may exhibit fewer word repetitions
- ▶ Special problem: length may relate to the introduction of additional subjects, which will also increase richness

# Vocabulary diversity and corpus length

- In natural language text, the rate at which new types appear is very high at first, but diminishes with added tokens

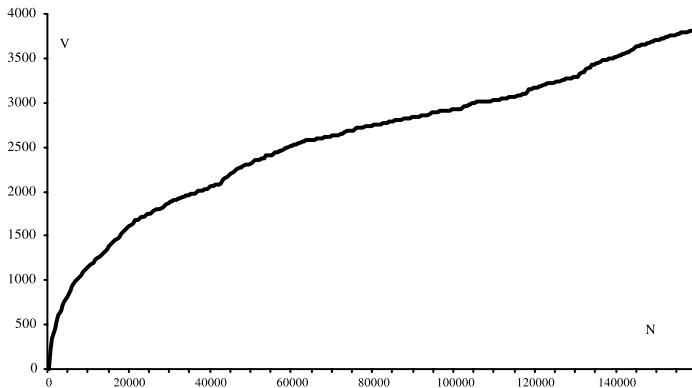


Fig. 1. Chart of vocabulary growth in the tragedies of Racine (chronological order, 500 token intervals).



# Vocabulary Diversity Example

- ▶ Variations use automated segmentation – here approximately 500 words in a corpus of serialized, concatenated weekly addresses by de Gaulle (from Labbé et. al. 2004)
- ▶ While most were written, during the period of December 1965 these were more spontaneous press conferences

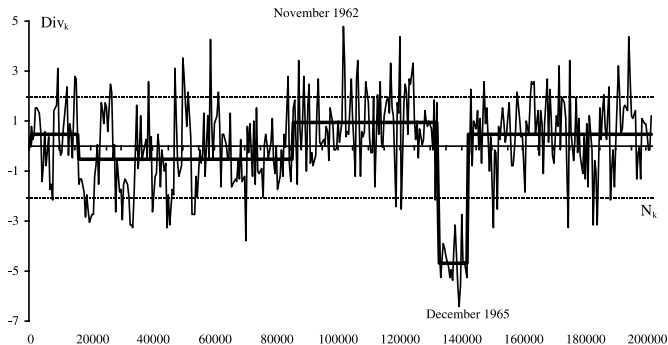
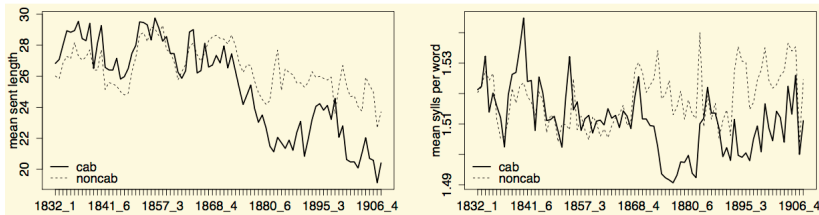


Fig. 8. Evolution of vocabulary diversity in General de Gaulle's broadcast speeches (June 1958–April 1969).

# Readability Example

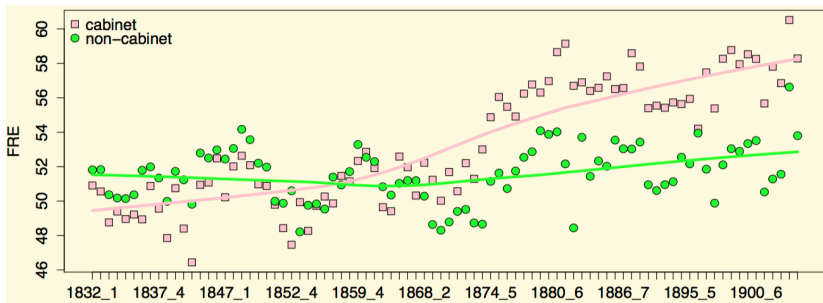
- ▶ Most commonly used readability scores focus on a combination of syllables and sentence length
  - ▶ Shorter sentences = more readable
  - ▶ Fewer syllables = more readable
- ▶ Research question: Do Members of Parliament use less complex language when appealing to a more diverse electorate?
- ▶ Context: Parliamentary speeches before and after the Great Reform Act (1867)



# Readability Example

Flesch score:

$$206.835 - 1.105 \left( \frac{\text{total number of words}}{\text{total number of sentences}} \right) - 84.6 \left( \frac{\text{total number of syllables}}{\text{total number of words}} \right)$$



## Content analysis

# Hand-coding: “Classic” content analysis

- ▶ Key feature: use of “human” coders to implement a pre-defined coding scheme, by reading and coding texts
- ▶ Human decision-making is the central feature of coding decisions, not a computer or other mechanized tool
- ▶ Differs from thematic analysis in that the coding scheme is *fixed*
- ▶ Alternative 1: (somewhat more automated) is a dictionary approach
- ▶ Alternative 2: (entirely “automated”) is inductive scaling of texts from the quantitative matrix

# Hand-coding': “Classic” content analysis

- ▶ Validity is usually the objective, rather than reliability
- ▶ Another motivating factor could be ease of use, or the difficulty of implementing an automated procedure
- ▶ May be *computer-assisted*, especially for **unitization**
- ▶ Many common “CATA” or “CACA” tools exist – e.g. QDAMiner

# Components of classical content analysis designs

**Unitizing** The systematic distinguishing of segments of text that are of interest to the analysis.

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**Inference and reporting** The final steps wherein the analyzed results are used to generalize about social world, and communicating these results to others.

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- ▶ “Qualitative” since it involves identification of the concepts and associated keys/categories, and the textual features associated with each key/category
- ▶ Dictionary construction involves a lot of contextual interpretation and qualitative judgment
- ▶ Perfect reliability because there is no human decision making as part of the text analysis procedure

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- ▶ Hierarchical: so “anger” are part of an *emotion* category and a *negative emotion* subcategory
- ▶ You can **buy** it here:  
<http://www.liwc.net/descriptiontable1.php>



# Example: Terrorist speech

	Bin Ladin (1988 to 2006) N = 28	Zawahiri (2003 to 2006) N = 15	Controls N = 17	p (two- tailed)
Word Count	2511.5	1996.4	4767.5	
Big words (greater than 6 letters)	21.2a	23.6b	21.1a	.05
Pronouns	9.15ab	9.83b	8.16a	.09
I (e.g. I, me, my)	0.61	0.90	0.83	
We (e.g. we, our, us)	1.94	1.79	1.95	
You (e.g. you, your, yours)	1.73	1.69	0.87	
He/she (e.g. he, hers, they)	1.42	1.42	1.37	
They (e.g., they, them)	2.17a	2.29a	1.43b	.03
Prepositions	14.8	14.7	15.0	
Articles (e.g. a, an, the)	9.07	8.53	9.19	
Exclusive Words (but, exclude)	2.72	2.62	3.17	
Affect	5.13a	5.12a	3.91b	.01
Positive emotion (happy, joy, love)	2.57a	2.83a	2.03b	.01
Negative emotion (awful, cry, hate)	2.52a	2.28ab	1.87b	.03
Anger words (hate, kill)	1.49a	1.32a	0.89b	.01
Cognitive Mechanisms	4.43	4.56	4.86	
Time (clock, hour)	2.40b	1.89a	2.69b	.01
Past tense verbs	2.21a	1.63a	2.94b	.01
Social Processes	11.4a	10.7ab	9.29b	.04
Humans (e.g. child, people, selves)	0.95ab	0.52a	1.12b	.05
Family (mother, father)	0.46ab	0.52a	0.25b	.08
Content				
Death (e.g. dead, killing, murder)	0.55	0.47	0.64	
Achievement	0.94	0.89	0.81	
Money (e.g. buy, economy, wealth)	0.34	0.38	0.58	
Religion (e.g. faith, Jew, sacred)	2.41	1.84	1.89	

Note. Numbers are mean percentages of total words per text file. Statistical tests are between Bin Ladin, Zawahiri, and Controls. Documents whose source indicates "Both" (n=3) or "Unknown" (n=2) were excluded due to their small sample sizes.

# Advantage: Multi-lingual

APPENDIX B  
DICTIONARY OF THE COMPUTER-BASED CONTENT ANALYSIS

	NL	UK	GE	IT
<b>Core</b>	elit* consensus* ondemocratisch* ondemokratisch* referend* corrupt* propagand* politici* *bedrog* *bedrieg*  *verraa* *verrad* schaam*  schand* waarheid* oneerlijk*	elit* consensus* undemocratic*  referend* corrupt* propagand* politici* *deceit* *deceiv*  *betray*  shame*  scandal* truth* dishonest*	elit* konsens* undemokratisch*  referend* korrupt* propagand* politiker* täusch* betrüg* betrug* *verrat*  scham* schäm* skandal* wahrheit* unfair* unehrlich* establishm* *herrschr*  lüge*	elit* consens* antidemocratic*  referend* corrot* propagand* politici* ingann*  tradi*  vergogn*  scandal* verità* disonest*  partitocrazia   menzogn* mentir*
<b>Context</b>	establishm* heersend* capitul* kapitul* kaste* leugen* lieg*	establishm* ruling*		

(from Rooduijn and Pauwels 2011)

## Disdvantage: Highly specific to context

- ▶ Example: Loughran and McDonald used the Harvard-IV-4 TagNeg (H4N) file to classify sentiment for a corpus of 50,115 firm-year 10-K filings from 1994–2008
- ▶ found that almost three-fourths of the “negative” words of H4N were typically not negative in a financial context  
e.g. *mine* or *cancer*, or *tax*, *cost*, *capital*, *board*, *liability*, *foreign*, and *vice*
- ▶ Problem: **polysemes** – words that have multiple meanings
- ▶ Another problem: dictionary lacked important negative financial words, such as *felony*, *litigation*, *restated*, *misstatement*, and *unanticipated*

## Supervised Learning

# Supervised Learning

- ▶ Dictionary methods require us to pre-define lists of words corresponding to classes of interest in advance
- ▶ Supervised learning allow us to assign documents to classes based on a **training set** of documents
- ▶ Advantages:
  - ▶ In contrast to dictionary methods, supervised learning is domain specific
  - ▶ Straightforward to validate, with familiar statistics for model performance

# Supervised Learning

There are many, many models for supervised text learning. But all follow a few basic steps:

1. Define a **training set** of manually labelled documents, with each document assigned to a class
2. Apply a supervised learning algorithm in order to **learn the relationship between features and classes** in the training set
3. **Validate the results** using the test set (accuracy, precision, percent correctly predicted, etc)
4. **Classify remaining documents** in the full corpus

(If you attended day 4 of this course, this should sound familiar.)

# Supervised learning example

Recall the Naive Bayes classification model from Thursday:

- ▶ Assume that features (words) are independent
- ▶ The probability of a document,  $d$ , being assigned to a class,  $k$ :

$$P(Y = k|X) \propto P(k) \prod_{i=1}^n P(x_i|k) \quad (2)$$

- ▶ We then assign the document to  $k$ th class for which it has the highest posterior probability:

$$\hat{y} = \underset{k \in \{1, \dots, k\}}{\operatorname{argmax}} P(k) \prod_{i=1}^n P(x_i|k) \quad (3)$$

- ▶ Note that this is certainly not a correct model of text! The conditional independence of features assumption implies that we are essentially treating documents as **bags of words**

# Supervised learning example

We are going to use the Naive Bayes model to predict whether movie reviews are positive or negative.

- ▶ Corpus: 2000 movie reviews
- ▶ Training set: 1000 reviews
- ▶ Test set: 1000 reviews
- ▶ Each review is manually labelled as either “positive” or “negative”



# Naive bayes and quanteda

```
> # Load libraries  
> library(quanteda)  
> library(quantedaData)  
>
```

# Naive bayes and quanteda

```
> # Load libraries
> library(quanteda)
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> # Convert corpus into document-feature matrix
> movie_dfm <- dfm(data_corpus_movies)
> dim(movie_dfm)

[1] 2000 48127
```

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> # Load libraries
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> # Convert corpus into document-feature matrix
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[1] 2000 48127
```

That is a lot of features! Let's get rid of some of them:

```
> # Remove some features
> movie_dfm <- dfm_remove(movie_dfm, pattern = stopwords("english"))
> movie_dfm <- dfm_trim(movie_dfm, min_count = 10)
> movie_dfm <- dfm_trim(movie_dfm, min_docfreq = 0.02)
> dim(movie_dfm)

[1] 2000 2490
```

# Naive bayes and quanteda

Let's subset the dfm into two, one for the training set, and one for the test set:

```
> # Subset the matrix into test and training sets
>
> test_set_vector <- docvars(data_corpus_movies)$test
> movie_dfm_test <- dfm_subset(movie_dfm,
+                               subset = test_set_vector)
> movie_dfm_train <- dfm_subset(movie_dfm,
+                                subset = !test_set_vector)
```

Now we can estimate the naive bayes model:

```
> # Estimate the naive bayes model on the training model
> nb_out <- textmodel_NB(movie_dfm_train,
+                          docvars(movie_dfm_train)$Sentiment)
```

# Naive bayes and quanteda

Finally, we can predict the classes for the test set:

```
> test_set_predictions <- predict(nb_out, movie_dfm_test)$nb.predicted  
> true_classifications <- docvars(movie_dfm_test)$Sentiment  
> table(test_set_predictions, true_classifications)
```

	true_classifications	
test_set_predictions	neg	pos
neg	417	95
pos	96	392

```
>
```

# Feature selection in Naive Bayes

We chose some pretty arbitrary rules for reducing the size of the DFM. But these choices can have important consequences.

1. Raw word counts (48,127 features)
2. Remove stop words (47,581 features)
3. Stem words (31,482 features)
4. Trim words (remove words that appear in less than 1% of documents, 556 features)
5. Sentiment only words (only words that appear in a dictionary of “positive” and “negative” words, 314 features)

(Note that these are still pretty arbitrary: why not 1 and 3? Or 2 and 4? etc)

# Feature selection in Naive Bayes

Table: Accuracy for different feature selection strategies

DFM	Accuracy
Trimmed	0.787
Sentiment Only	0.787
Stemmed	0.969
Raw	0.981
Stop words	0.984

# Feature selection in Naive Bayes

**Table:** Accuracy for different feature selection strategies

DFM	Accuracy
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Raw	0.981
Stop words	0.984

It is a little weird that the 'Sentiment Only' model performs so poorly. Why is this?



# Validation is important

It seems that our classifier is finding that particular films are good or bad, rather than finding something more general about the language used in movie reviews.

**Table:** Probability of class given word

	neg	pos
mulan	0.020	0.980
shrek	0.023	0.977
lebowski	0.032	0.968
leila	0.037	0.963
mallory	0.044	0.956
poker	0.045	0.955

This may have implications for scaling to other corpora of movie reviews!

# Conclusion

- ▶ QTA allows us to draw inferences from very large collections of text without (too much) human interpretation
- ▶ All quantitative models of text are wrong, but some are useful
- ▶ Simple quantitative metrics of text can be very revealing
- ▶ Supervised text models, such as Naive Bayes, are easy to apply and can be very helpful in dealing with huge corpora
- ▶ quanteda is awesome
- ▶ Tomorrow: Unsupervised text models: topic models